

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing computer hardware components, the method comprising:

(a) displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space;

(b) in response to user input, indicating a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components;

(c) ~~for at least one selected hardware component among the multiple hardware components having a selected status;~~ dynamically retrieving a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status therewith; and

(d) performing a management operation from among the list of available management operations on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pictorial representation includes a diagram of at least one enclosure within which the plurality of hardware components is disposed, the diagram further depicting a physical location of each of the plurality of hardware components in the enclosure.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first diagram depicts a first view of the enclosure taken from a first viewpoint, and wherein the pictorial representation

further includes a second diagram depicting a second view of the enclosure taken from a second viewpoint.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least one of the plurality of hardware components comprises an unused interface component configured to physically interconnect with another hardware component, the method further comprising managing the unused interface component through user input directed to the pictorial representation.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute, the method further comprising:

- (a) comparing attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion; and
- (b) selecting those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion, wherein the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising generating the filter criterion responsive to user input.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising selecting the filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, each of the plurality of predetermined filter criteria associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each hardware component is associated with a hardware type, and wherein the filter criterion identifies a selected hardware type, wherein selecting those hardware components includes selecting those hardware components associated with the selected hardware type.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising updating the indication of the selected status for at least one of the multiple hardware components responsive to selection of those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, each of which depicting a physical location of at least one of the plurality of hardware components, the method further comprising displaying within the pictorial representation only those diagrams from the plurality of diagrams that depict the physical location of at least one hardware component having a selected status.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising visually highlighting those portions of the pictorial representation that depict the physical configurations of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the status of a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components to one of a selected and an unselected status responsive to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple hardware components are physically located in a plurality of computers, wherein performing the management operation includes performing the management operation in each of the plurality of computers.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein at least two of the plurality of computers utilize different types of computer platforms.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically retrieving the list of available management operations is performed ~~associated with the at least one selected hardware component includes retrieving a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status~~ in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of at least one of the at least two selected hardware components.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user input includes user input to open a context sensitive menu, the method further comprising displaying the list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu, wherein performing the management operation on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status is performed responsive to user input directed to the context sensitive menu.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving status information associated with a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the user input includes locating a user-manipulated pointer over that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component, the method further comprising displaying the retrieved status information within a pop-up window disposed proximate that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a first computer, and wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is physically located in the first computer.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a first computer, and wherein at least a portion of the plurality of hardware components are physically located in a second computer in communication with the first computer.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is disposed in a computer selected from the group consisting of a single-user computer, a multi-user computer, a clustered computer, a multi-unit computer, and combinations thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

(a) a memory; and

(b) a program resident in the memory and configured to display a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space, the program further configured to indicate, in response to user input, a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components; to dynamically retrieve, for at least one selected hardware component among the multiple hardware components having a selected status, a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status therewith; and to perform a management operation from among the list of

available management operations on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the pictorial representation includes a diagram of at least one enclosure within which the plurality of hardware components is disposed, the diagram further depicting a physical location of each of the plurality of hardware components in the enclosure.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the first diagram depicts a first view of the enclosure taken from a first viewpoint, and wherein the pictorial representation further includes a second diagram depicting a second view of the enclosure taken from a second viewpoint.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein at least one of the plurality of hardware components comprises an unused interface component configured to physically interconnect with another hardware component, wherein the program is further configured to manage the unused interface component through user input directed to the pictorial representation.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute, and wherein the program is further configured to compare attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion, and select those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion, wherein the program is configured to display the pictorial representation depicting at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the program is further configured to generate the filter criterion responsive to user input.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the program is further configured to select the filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, each of the plurality of predetermined filter criteria associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, each of which depicting a physical location of at least one of the plurality of hardware components, wherein the program is further configured to display within the pictorial representation only those diagrams from the plurality of diagrams that depict the physical location of at least one hardware component having a selected status.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to visually highlight those portions of the pictorial representation that depict the physical configurations of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to update the status of a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components to one of a selected and an unselected status responsive to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the multiple hardware components are physically located in a plurality of computers, wherein the program is further configured to perform the management operation by performing the management operation in each of the plurality of computers.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to dynamically retrieve the list of available management operations associated with the at least one selected hardware component among the plurality of hardware components by retrieving a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of at least one of the at least two selected hardware components.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the user input includes user input to open a context sensitive menu, wherein the program is further configured to display the list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu, and perform the management operation on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input directed to the context sensitive menu.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to retrieve status information associated with a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is resident on the same computer as the plurality of hardware components.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least one of the plurality of hardware components is physically located on a different computer from that within which the program is resident.

40. (Currently Amended) A program product, comprising:

(a) a program configured to display a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space, the program further configured to indicate, in response to user input, a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components; to dynamically retrieve, for at least one selected hardware component among the multiple hardware components having a selected status, a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status therewith; and to perform a management operation from among the list of available management operations on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input; and

(b) a physical computer readable signal bearing medium bearing the program.

41. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 40, wherein the physical computer readable signal bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission medium.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of managing computer hardware components, the method comprising:

(a) accessing a plurality of computers to identify a plurality of hardware components resident in the plurality of computers;

(b) dynamically generating a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of computers and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware

components within the plurality of computers that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space;
and

(c) performing at least one management operation on multiple selected hardware components among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that represents the physical configuration of one of the multiple selected hardware components, wherein performing the at least one management operation includes dynamically retrieving a list of available management operations associated with the multiple selected hardware components, and selecting the management operation to be performed from the list of available management operations.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute, and wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, the method further comprising:

(a) comparing attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion; and

(b) selecting those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion;

wherein dynamically generating the pictorial representation includes displaying within the pictorial representation only those diagrams associated with the selected hardware components.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein retrieving the list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components includes dynamically generating the list after the multiple hardware components have been selected to include only management operations that are appropriate for being performed on all of the multiple hardware components having a selected status.

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the program is configured to retrieve the list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components by dynamically generating the list after the multiple hardware components have been selected to include only management operations that are appropriate for being performed on all of the multiple hardware components having a selected status.